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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

July 22, 2021 - 1:04 p.m.

[Remote Hearing conducted via Webex]

RE: DE 21-109  
EVERSOURCE ENERGY  
2021 TRANSMISSION COST  
ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM  
(Hearing)

PRESENT: Chairwoman Dianne H. Martin, Presiding  
Commissioner Daniel C. Goldner

Doreen Borden, Clerk  
Corrine Lemay, PUC Remote Hearing Host

APPEARANCES: Reptg. Eversource Energy  
Jessica A. Chiavara, Esq.

Reptg. N.H. Dept. of Energy:  
Lynn Fabrizio, Esq.

Court Reporter: Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44

## I N D E X

1  
2 WITNESS PANEL: ERICA L. MENARD  
3 JAMES E. MATTHEWS  
4 DAVID J. BURNHAM  
5 JENNIFER A. ULLRAM  
6 STEPHEN R. ECKBERG

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18 EXHIBITS PAGE

19 1 2021 TCAM Petition (7/20/210) PREMARKED  
20 and Attachments

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23 of overall average TCAM rates  
24 and percentage of change  
year to year for each states  
in which Eversource does business

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Good afternoon,  
3 everyone. We're here this afternoon in  
4 Docket DE-21-109, which is the Eversource  
5 Request for Adjustment to its Transmission  
6 Cost Adjustment Mechanism Rate for effect  
7 August 1, 2021.

8 My name is Dianne Martin. I'm the  
9 Chairwoman of the Commission.

10 Commissioner Goldner, would you  
11 like to introduce yourself.

12 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Hi, Dan  
13 Goldner, Commissioner.

14 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: And let's take  
15 appearances. Again, Ms. Chiavara.

16 MS. CHIAVARA: Good afternoon,  
17 Chairwoman Martin and Commissioner Goldner.  
18 Jessica Chiavara, still for Public Service  
19 Company of New Hampshire, doing business as  
20 Eversource Energy. And this afternoon I have  
21 a few people with me. Erica Menard once  
22 again, and I also have David Burnham,  
23 Jennifer Ullram and James Matthews.

24 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.

1 Thank you.

2 And Ms. Fabrizio.

3 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you, Madam  
4 Chair. Good afternoon, Commissioner Goldner,  
5 as well. I'm Lynn Fabrizio, a hearings  
6 examiner for the Department of Energy  
7 Enforcement Division, representing the  
8 Department in today's proceeding. And with  
9 me as a participant in today's hearing is  
10 Steve Eckberg, a utility analyst with the  
11 Department of Energy Regulatory Division.  
12 Mr. Eckberg worked closely with me in our  
13 substantive review of the Company's filing in  
14 this docket, including a detailed review of  
15 the proposed changes to the transmission cost  
16 adjustment rate that we will highlight in our  
17 cross of the Company witnesses today. And he  
18 is available as a witness if the Commission  
19 would like him to testify today.

20 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank  
21 you very much. We appreciate that.

22 All right. Let's go to the  
23 exhibits. I have Exhibit 1 prefiled and  
24 premarked for identification. Is there

1 anything else related to exhibits?

2 [No verbal response]

3 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Seeing  
4 nothing, we will go now to testimony. Can we  
5 please swear in -- why don't we swear in  
6 both, that way if the Commission does have  
7 questions, we'll be able to direct them to  
8 Mr. Eckberg as well. Any objection from the  
9 Company to that?

10 MS. CHIAVARA: No objection.

11 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you. Go  
12 ahead.

13 (WHEREUPON, ERICA L. MENARD JAMES E.  
14 MATTHEWS DAVID J. BURNHAM ,JENNIFER A.  
15 ULLRAM, and STEPHEN R. ECKBERG were duly  
16 sworn and cautioned by the Court  
17 Reporter.)

18 ERICA L. MENARD, SWORN

19 JAMES E. MATTHEWS, SWORN

20 DAVID J. BURNHAM, SWORN

21 JENNIFER A. ULLRAM, SWORN

22 STEPHEN R. ECKBERG, SWORN

23 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.

24 Thank you, Ms. Chiavara.

1 MS. CHIAVARA: All right. Thank  
2 you, Chairwoman Martin.

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. CHIAVARA:

5 Q. I'm going to begin with Ms. Menard.

6 Ms. Menard, can you please state your  
7 name and your title of your role at  
8 Eversource.

9 A. (Menard) I am Erica Menard. I'm the manager  
10 of revenue requirements for New Hampshire.  
11 And in that capacity I am responsible for the  
12 revenue requirement calculations associated  
13 with various rates presented before this  
14 Commission.

15 Q. And have you ever previously testified before  
16 this Commission, perhaps even today?

17 A. (Menard) Yes.

18 Q. Great. Did you file testimony and supporting  
19 attachments as part of the filing on  
20 July 20th, 2021, which is marked as Exhibit  
21 1?

22 A. (Menard) Yes.

23 Q. And were the testimony and supporting  
24 materials prepared by you or at your

1 direction?

2 A. (Menard) Yes.

3 Q. Do you have any changes or updates to make to  
4 those at this time?

5 A. (Menard) Yes, I have one minor clarification.

6 On Bates Page 26, red Bates Page 26, on  
7 Line 17, the text reads, "(Over) Recovery  
8 TCAM, Previous TCAM Year." It was noted in  
9 our tech session the other day, the Company's  
10 standard nomenclature is to say "over" in  
11 parentheses, slash, "under." And that  
12 terminology was omitted from both Bates  
13 Pages 26 and 27, and also on Bates 28 and 29.  
14 So we just wanted to clarify that terminology  
15 and that (over)/under recovery is actually an  
16 over or under recovery. We just didn't  
17 specify it in the text. So a credit is an  
18 over-recovery; a positive number is an  
19 under-recovery.

20 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Can I just  
21 clarify for the record? So it should say  
22 "over, slash, under"?

23 WITNESS MENARD: Yes.

24 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank

1           you.

2                           MS. CHIAVARA:   Thank you.

3   BY MS. CHIAVARA:

4   Q.   Do you adopt your testimony today as it was  
5       written and filed?

6   A.   (Menard) Yes.

7   Q.   Thank you.

8                   Ms. Menard, by way of background, could  
9       you provide some context for the transmission  
10      cost adjustment mechanism, or the TCAM rate,  
11      the adjustment of which the Company is asking  
12      for today?

13   A.   (Menard) Yes.   The TCAM was established back  
14      in 2006, and it essentially recovers the cost  
15      of certain transmission-related expenses from  
16      distribution customers.   The TCAM, it is an  
17      annual reconciling rate.   It is set on an  
18      annual basis in August, and it also includes  
19      a reconciliation of the prior year's rate in  
20      that over or under-recovery capacity.   The  
21      transmission expenses being recovered include  
22      two different types of expenses.   One is  
23      related to the wholesale transmission  
24      expenses.   These are transmission costs from



1 ISO-New England and include the Regional  
2 Network Service, or RNS, Local Network  
3 Service, or LNS, reliability and scheduling  
4 and dispatch costs. And these are all based  
5 on the FERC-approved tariffs. In addition to  
6 those wholesale transmission costs, there are  
7 also other transmission-related costs that  
8 are recovered here, and those include costs  
9 and revenues associated with a Hydro-Quebec  
10 high-voltage DC line -- there's a contract  
11 that Eversource is a party to -- and also an  
12 allowance for working capital, which is  
13 calculated based on a lead-lag study that is  
14 updated on an annual basis.

15 Q. Thank you. And you said that this proposed  
16 adjustment to the rate that's to be effective  
17 August 1st includes both forecasted and  
18 actual costs?

19 A. Correct. We forecast for the period -- for  
20 the 12-month period ending July '22. And we  
21 include actuals in the reconciliation of  
22 those actuals up through the latest available  
23 data -- in this particular filing, it's  
24 through May of 2021. So we reconciled the

1 previous rate that was set and included an  
2 updated forecast for the TCAM rate year.

3 Q. Great. Thank you. Now, there was an initial  
4 filing made by the Company on July 8th that  
5 was replaced by the filing that was made on  
6 July 20th. That's the filing that's marked  
7 as Exhibit 1. Can you briefly explain why  
8 the July 20th filing was necessary and what  
9 impact it had on the proposed TCAM rate?

10 A. (Menard) Yes. As we -- as you stated, we  
11 filed our initial rate filing on July 8th.  
12 And then as we were preparing for our  
13 technical session with the DOE, we noticed an  
14 item where there was a duplication of some  
15 LNS expenses by approximately \$2.2 million.  
16 There was a duplication in a line that was  
17 causing that. So we adjusted that  
18 calculation, presented that to DOE before our  
19 technical session, and we were able to have  
20 that discussion with the updated information.  
21 And then after our technical session we filed  
22 the updated filing on July 20th. And so once  
23 that duplicate line was removed, the  
24 calculations were adjusted accordingly, and

1 the rate that was originally proposed on  
2 July 8th, which was 2.815 cents, has been  
3 adjusted downward to 2.785 cents per kilowatt  
4 hour.

5 Q. Thank you. So does the July 20th filing  
6 completely replace the July 8th filing?

7 A. (.

8 (Menard) Yes, it does.

9 Q. Great. Now, regarding the Hydro-Quebec or  
10 "HQ" contracts that are discussed on red  
11 Bates Pages 9 and 10 of your testimony, and  
12 also in Attachment ELM-1, Pages 2, 3 and 5,  
13 which are red Bates Pages 26 through 29,  
14 these show significantly higher revenues and  
15 revenue credits than have historically been  
16 shown for these contracts. What accounts for  
17 this increase?

18 A. (Menard) So just a little background on the  
19 Hydro-Quebec contract. Earlier this year  
20 there was an extension. The Company has been  
21 working actually for quite some time on this  
22 extension of the original contract. And the  
23 Company has also briefed what's now the  
24 Department of Energy on our discussions to

1 extend this contract.

2 The contract was finalized, and we now  
3 have a new 20-year contract with Hydro-Quebec  
4 for this high-voltage direct current line.  
5 As part of that -- so the costs associated  
6 with that line, there are some maintenance  
7 and support-type costs that come along with  
8 this contract. And there are also  
9 interconnection capacity credits that are  
10 received through this contract. So those are  
11 the traditional, what we call "Hydro-Quebec  
12 costs and credits."

13 In addition, new this year, the Company,  
14 the Eversource Company and all of its  
15 subsidiaries within the Eversource family,  
16 issued an RFP for the reassignment of their  
17 use rates of that line. And so this RFP  
18 created -- prior to the -- in a prior  
19 contract, those use rates were just  
20 reassigned back to Hydro-Quebec, and it was  
21 directly an offset to the support costs. So  
22 it was kind of a net zero.

23 With this new approach of going out and  
24 reassigning use rights, we were able to

1           obtain greater value for customers. And so  
2           the proceeds associated with this RFP are  
3           credited to customers back through the TCAM  
4           mechanism, and that is -- there's some more  
5           detail in testimony on red Bates Pages 9 and  
6           10 in the footnotes. But you can see the  
7           actual credits that are going back to  
8           customers on red Bates Page 26, Line 19.  
9           There's a line called "Revenue Credits," and  
10          these are the revenue credits that I just  
11          described, revenues associated with the  
12          Hydro-Quebec use rights.

13                   And so if you look at some of the  
14                   previous credits, you'll notice the direct  
15                   offset to what's shown on Line 13, the  
16                   Hydro-Quebec Support Costs, up until this  
17                   current forecast year, where there's  
18                   significantly higher credit falling back to  
19                   customers as a result of this RFP process.

20    Q.    Thank you very much.

21                   Now I'd like to turn to New Hampshire's  
22                   load share generally compared to the regional  
23                   load share. If you could speak to how New  
24                   Hampshire's load share has been changing or

1 trending over time, and if you could speak a  
2 little bit to how the -- what the Company's  
3 recent efforts have been to reduce the share  
4 of New Hampshire's load to remain competitive  
5 with other regional states.

6 A. (Menard) Yes. So the importance of the load  
7 share ratio is that's the basis for the  
8 allocation of ISO-New England costs through  
9 various tariffs. And what we have seen over  
10 the past few years is that the load share  
11 ratio has been trending upward slightly. And  
12 so there have been questions by this  
13 Commission in the past about what the Company  
14 is doing to reduce its load share ratio,  
15 essentially trying to reduce costs, wholesale  
16 transmission costs.

17 While the increase in the load share  
18 ratio can be attributed to a few different  
19 things, one of the components we're seeing is  
20 just economic development in Southern New  
21 Hampshire as compared to New England as a  
22 whole. There seems to be higher growth in  
23 southern New Hampshire versus the rest of New  
24 England. However, the Company has

1           undertaken, through its energy-efficiency  
2           programs, a couple of initiatives to try to  
3           develop programs that work to reduce the  
4           Company's demand, peak demands in general --  
5           there's a lot of words in testimony that  
6           describe some of the programs, but I will  
7           just highlight them just for the sake of our  
8           setting the stage --

9                       Beginning on red Bates 12 and going  
10           through red Bates 16, there was some  
11           discussion on energy-efficiency programs and  
12           offerings. In general, while  
13           energy-efficiency programs reduce kilowatt  
14           hours, they also have a secondary effect of  
15           reducing kilowatts as well, or peak demands.  
16           And so we describe in testimony some of the  
17           reductions and what we've seen from program  
18           offerings that were part of the 2018 to 2020  
19           three-year energy-efficiency plan. And on  
20           red Bates 13, we talk about through 2020  
21           efficiency measures installed estimated to  
22           achieve an 11.8 megawatt reduction in summer  
23           peak demand and 13.5 megawatt in winter peak  
24           demand.

1           But beyond just energy-efficiency  
2           measures, there are two programs specifically  
3           that are designed to further reduce summer  
4           peak demand, and those are described  
5           beginning on red Bates 15. They are what's  
6           called "active demand reduction initiatives."  
7           There's two programs, one for commercial and  
8           industrial customers and one for residential  
9           customers. And these were initiatives that  
10          were part of the 2018 to 2020 three-year  
11          plan. And the intent was in the next  
12          three-year plan, beginning in 2021, to expand  
13          on these initiatives. So if you want to  
14          think of them as "pilots" to try to see what  
15          kinds of results we would obtain, the intent  
16          is to expand these in future  
17          energy-efficiency programs. But for the 2020  
18          active demand response initiatives for the  
19          C&I -- sorry -- for the residential  
20          offerings, there was a reduction of --  
21          sorry -- yes, for residential there was a  
22          reduction of 12 megawatts in summer peak  
23          demand.

24                 And so these programs are New



1 Hampshire's attempt to try to get at the load  
2 ratio share and try to reduce New Hampshire's  
3 peak demands and try to reduce or keep up  
4 with other states in terms of how we can  
5 reduce our load ratio share in New Hampshire.

6 Q. And what is the level of participation in  
7 these programs? Does it look to be a  
8 successful program?

9 A. (Menard) It looks to be a successful program  
10 so far. There's a wait list at this time,  
11 which leads us to believe that there's active  
12 participation. And when and if the next  
13 three-year plan is approved, there could be  
14 further programs and offerings that can work  
15 to reduce peak demands.

16 Q. Thank you. Lastly, is it the Company's  
17 position that the recommended 2021 cap rate  
18 is just and reasonable?

19 A. (Menard) Yes.

20 Q. Thank you very much, Ms. Menard.

21 I would now like to turn to James  
22 Matthews.

23 Mr. Matthews, can you please state your  
24 name and the title of your role at

1 Eversource.

2 A. (Matthews) Yes. My name is James Matthews.  
3 I'm manager of rates and revenue requirements  
4 and transmission, and I'm employed by  
5 Eversource Energy Service Company.

6 Q. And what are the responsibilities of your  
7 role at Eversource?

8 A. (Matthews) In my role, I'm responsible for  
9 coordination and implementation of  
10 transmission rate and revenue requirement  
11 calculations for Eversource. I also have  
12 responsibility related to transmission rate  
13 filings before Eversource's affiliated  
14 companies, three state utility commissions,  
15 as well as the Federal Energy Regulatory  
16 Commission.

17 Q. And have you previously testified before this  
18 Commission?

19 A. (Matthews) Yes.

20 Q. Did you file testimony and supporting  
21 attachments as part of the filing on  
22 July 20th, 2021 that is marked as Exhibit 1?

23 A. (Matthews) Yes.

24 Q. And were the testimony and supporting

1 materials prepared by you or at your  
2 direction?

3 A. (Matthews) Yes.

4 Q. Do you have any changes or updates to make to  
5 that at this time?

6 A. (Matthews) No.

7 Q. And do you adopt your testimony today as it  
8 was written and filed?

9 A. (Matthews) Yes.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 Mr. Matthews, if you could turn to the  
12 table on red Bates Page 12 of Exhibit 1. For  
13 the LNS monthly expense beginning in 2022,  
14 the load ratio share jumps from 21.6 percent  
15 for the August 2021 to December 2021 period,  
16 to 79 percent for January through July of  
17 2022.

18 Could you please explain the cause for  
19 this increase in percentage, what changes to  
20 the calculation did this increase represent,  
21 and lastly, the practical impact that this  
22 increase in percentage ultimately has on the  
23 LNS expense and the TCAM rate overall.

24 A. (Matthews) Yes. The change in rates that's

1 reflected in the table on Bates Page 11 is  
2 reflective of a FERC-approved settlement in  
3 the transmission formula rate transparency  
4 docket. That's No. ER 20-2054-000, as  
5 footnoted below table. That settlement was  
6 approved by FERC on December 28th of 2020.  
7 And under that settlement, new rates, new  
8 formula rates will be effective January 1st  
9 of 2022.

10 Under the current rate structure, LNS  
11 costs are based on an average rate for  
12 Eversource's CL&P, PSNH and NSTAR West  
13 subsidiaries. The forecasted LNS cost for  
14 the three entities are summed and billed to  
15 each company based on their respective share  
16 of the combined Connecticut, New Hampshire  
17 and Western Massachusetts load. PSNH is  
18 approximately 20 to 21 percent of that  
19 combined load.

20 Now, under the settled formula rate,  
21 which will be effective, as I mentioned, on  
22 January 1st of 2022, the LNS cost for the  
23 Eversource companies will be billed on a  
24 state-by-state basis. And what that means is

1           that PSNH's LNS costs will be billed only to  
2           the LNS customers within New Hampshire.  
3           PSNH, while they're approximately 20 to  
4           21 percent of their combined load of the  
5           three entities I mentioned earlier, is  
6           79 percent of the New Hampshire load.

7           The PSNH -- one important consideration  
8           here. Characteristic of the new arrangement  
9           is PSNH customers will no longer pay for a  
10          share of the CL&P and NSTAR West local  
11          service projects and associated costs. And  
12          as noted in the table, the resulting costs  
13          for PSNH are relatively -- extremely similar,  
14          actually, under the current rate structure  
15          and the settled formula rate. So this cost  
16          allocation methodology changed. It doesn't  
17          result in any significant movement in costs  
18          allocated to New Hampshire customers.

19        Q.    Thank you for that explanation.

20                    So may I also ask you if it's the  
21                    Company's position that the proposed 2021  
22                    TCAM rate is just and reasonable?

23        A.    (Matthews) Yes.

24        Q.    Thank you, Mr. Matthews.

1                   That is all I have for him. I'm now  
2                   turning to David Burnham.

3                   Mr. Burnham, can you please state your  
4                   name and the title of your role at  
5                   Eversource.

6    A.    (Burnham) Yes. My name is David Burnham. My  
7           title is director of transmission policy for  
8           Eversource Energy.

9    Q.    And the responsibilities of your role at  
10           Eversource?

11   A.    (Burnham) Generally I'm responsible for  
12           advising Eversource's transmission project  
13           teams on stakeholder processes and reporting  
14           requirements and submission of some reporting  
15           filings to ISO-New England. I also  
16           coordinate Eversource's responses to various  
17           policy and tariff changes that come through  
18           the ISO-New England and NEPOOL stakeholder  
19           processes.

20   Q.    And have you ever testified previously before  
21           this Commission?

22   A.    (Burnham) Yes, I have.

23   Q.    Thank you. Did you file testimony and  
24           corresponding attachments as part of the

1 filing on July 20th, 2021 that's marked as  
2 Exhibit 1?

3 A. (Burnham) Yes, I did.

4 Q. And were the testimony and supporting  
5 materials prepared by you or at your  
6 direction?

7 A. (Burnham) Yes.

8 Q. Do you have any changes or updates to make at  
9 this time?

10 A. (Burnham) I do have one small change. The  
11 testimony lists my previous position with  
12 Eversource, but I've recently been promoted  
13 to director of transmission policy. It still  
14 encompasses the responsibilities I described  
15 in my testimony.

16 Q. And do you adopt that testimony as your  
17 testimony today?

18 A. (Burnham) Yes, I do.

19 Q. Great. Thank you.

20 So now I'd like to look at the  
21 attachment to your testimony, which is  
22 Attachment DJB-1, and that's on red Bates  
23 Page 74, the final page of the filing. This  
24 is regarding transmission plant in service.

1           Could you provide a summary of what's  
2           included and perhaps a few examples of such  
3           projects.

4       A.    (Burnham) Yes.  So as you said, my  
5           attachment, which is on Bates Page 74,  
6           provides an overview of the actual 2020  
7           transmission investments by Connecticut Light  
8           and Power, or CL&P, PSNH, and the western  
9           region of NSTAR Electric Company.

10           Kind of as described in Mr. Matthews'  
11           testimony, these are the three companies that  
12           share an average LNS rate.

13           Starting on the right-hand side of the  
14           table, the two columns labeled "D" and "E,"  
15           Column D shows the total plant in service for  
16           each project, while Column E shows only the  
17           portion that's associated with so-called  
18           "pool transmission facilities" or "PTF."  The  
19           difference between the two columns is the  
20           cost associated with what we call "non-pool  
21           transmission facilities" or "non-PTF."

22           A high-level explanation of the reason  
23           for the distinction between PTF and non-PTF  
24           comes from the ISO-New England open-access



1 transmission tariff. Within that framework,  
2 essentially there are transmission facilities  
3 that are required to ensure free flow of  
4 power from regional generation to load, and  
5 those are classified as "PTF." And that's  
6 the vast majority of transmission facilities.

7 Facilities that are needed only to serve  
8 local load and certain other assets are  
9 classified as "non-PTF." The cost associated  
10 with a PTF are usually recovered through the  
11 LNS rate from all regional customers in New  
12 England, and the costs associated with the  
13 non-PTF are usually recovered through  
14 individual transmission rates for local  
15 network service, or LNS.

16 Now, just to talk about some of the  
17 projects that are in the table, I'll actually  
18 use Rows 12 through 15, which cover the PSNH  
19 projects as examples. These are all  
20 reliability improvement projects, of which  
21 there are two flavors. Line 12 is the  
22 Seacoast Reliability Project. That's an  
23 example of a regional reliability project  
24 that was identified through an ISO-New

1 England transmission planning study. That  
2 kind of project is usually associated with  
3 increasing the capacity of the transmission  
4 system; in this case, installing new line to  
5 provide improved regional reliability,  
6 flexibility --

7 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

8 A. (Burnham) -- flexibility and meet reliability  
9 criteria.

10 Lines 13 and 14 are different kinds of  
11 what we sometimes call "asset condition  
12 projects." These are more closely tied to  
13 addressing deterioration or degradation of  
14 our existing facilities. The most common  
15 example is on Line 13, around replacement of  
16 existing aging wood transmission structures,  
17 typically with newer steel structures. These  
18 projects also go towards improving  
19 reliability for our customers; hardening the  
20 system against storms; and in some cases  
21 deploying new technologies, such as optical  
22 ground wire, or OPGW, which is the acronym  
23 you see in the Project Title on Line 14.

24 And for presentation purposes, we've

1 grouped a number of smaller reliability  
2 projects under Line 15. These also include  
3 things like structure replacements, as well  
4 as relay upgrades and smaller equipment  
5 upgrades to the substation, lightning  
6 protection improvements and things like that.

7 Q. Thank you for that explanation. And is it  
8 your position that the TCAM rate proposed for  
9 the period of August 2021 through June 2022,  
10 as described in Exhibit 1, is just and  
11 reasonable and consistent with the public  
12 interests?

13 A. (Burnham) Yes.

14 Q. Thank you very much.

15 Turning last, but not least, to Jennifer  
16 Ullram.

17 Ms. Ullram, can you please state your  
18 name and your title of your role at  
19 Eversource.

20 A. (Ullram) My name is Jennifer Ullram. I'm the  
21 manager of rates for Connecticut and New  
22 Hampshire for Eversource Energy Service  
23 Company.

24 Q. And your responsibilities in that role at

1 Eversource?

2 A. (Ullram) In my role I'm responsible for the  
3 Company's rate calculations and design and  
4 administration of its delivery tariff.

5 Q. And have you ever testified previously before  
6 this Commission?

7 A. (Ullram) Yes, I have.

8 Q. Great. Did you file testimony and supporting  
9 attachments as part of the filing on July 20,  
10 2021, marked as Exhibit 1?

11 A. (Ullram) Yes, I did.

12 Q. And were the testimony and supporting  
13 materials prepared by you or at your  
14 direction?

15 A. (Ullram) Yes, they were.

16 Q. Do you have any changes or updates to make to  
17 those?

18 A. (Ullram) No, I do not.

19 Q. And do you adopt your testimony today as it  
20 was written and filed?

21 A. (Ullram) Yes.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 Ms. Ullram, can you please provide an  
24 overview of the transmission rate impacts for

1 the rate classes?

2 A. (Ullram) Sure. On Bates Page 64, the Company  
3 provided the impacts on Rate R residential  
4 customers at various usage levels: 550  
5 kilowatt hours, 600 and 650 kilowatt hours.  
6 Specifically, just to give an example, on  
7 Line 33 it shows that the proposed  
8 transmission rate change would have a 19-cent  
9 impact a month on a 550-kilowatt-hour  
10 residential customer. On that same page, we  
11 also showed total overall impacts of all of  
12 the rate changes being proposed for  
13 August 1st.

14 Q. Thank you. And is it your and the Company's  
15 position that the proposed 2021 TCAM rate is  
16 just and reasonable and in the public  
17 interest?

18 A. (Ullram) Yes.

19 Q. Thank you very much.

20 MS. CHIAVARA: That is all I have  
21 for direct exam, Madam Chairwoman.

22 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank  
23 you.

24 Ms. Fabrizio, do you want to have

1           some time for direct examination of Mr.  
2           Eckberg or just go straight to cross?

3                       MS. FABRIZIO: I'm prepared  
4           primarily to ask questions of the Company  
5           witnesses.

6                       CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Go  
7           ahead.

8                       MS. FABRIZIO: And my questions may  
9           be somewhat repetitive of what we've heard  
10          already from the witnesses today, but they're  
11          going more towards clarification of the whys  
12          and wherefores of each of the elements in the  
13          TCAM rate that is proposed.

14                      CROSS-EXAMINATION

15          BY MS. FABRIZIO:

16          Q.     So first I'd like to go to Ms. Menard and Mr.  
17                 Matthews. In your joint testimony on Bates  
18                 Page 11, Lines 4 through 9, you list a number  
19                 of cost elements that contribute to the  
20                 increase in the average TCAM rate proposed  
21                 for August 1st, 2021 through July 31st, 2022.  
22                 Did I capture that accurately?

23          A.     (Matthews) Yes, you did.

24          Q.     Okay.

1 A. (Menard) Yes. Just to clarify, it's red  
2 Bates 12.

3 MS. FABRIZIO: I may have some of  
4 the numbers incorrect on my July 20 printout.

5 A. (Matthews) Original filing Bates Page 11 and  
6 revised filing 12.

7 MS. FABRIZIO: Oh, okay.

8 A. (Matthews) But I do have it, yes.

9 Q. Okay. And in that same discussion on the  
10 same page, you quantify the increase or  
11 decrease of each of those cost elements; is  
12 that correct?

13 A. (Matthews) Yes.

14 Q. So I wanted to just ask for a little bit of  
15 elaboration on, for example, what is included  
16 in the 16.9 million increase in RNS costs.

17 A. (Matthews) Okay. The increase in the RNS  
18 costs is reflective of increased RNS rates  
19 effective 6/1/21. And then again on 1/1/22  
20 there'll be another small increase in the RNS  
21 rate as we move to the new settled formulate  
22 rate. And the primary driver of the RNS rate  
23 increase is the projected new PTF investments  
24 to be made in New England in 2021 and 2022.

1 Q. Thank you. That's what I was looking for.

2 And what's -- moving down the list, what  
3 is behind the \$9 million decrease in  
4 forecasted under-recovery in that  
5 calculation?

6 A. (Menard) The under-recovery, it's a  
7 reconciliation of the prior year's  
8 (over)/under-recovery. And it compares what  
9 was in the previous rate overlaid with  
10 actuals and reconciled. So that  
11 (over)/under-recovery -- in this case, the  
12 under-recovery -- decreased by \$9 million.

13 Q. Thank you. And can you explain why there was  
14 a decrease in the Hydro-Quebec support cost?  
15 We've heard what's included in those support  
16 costs. Why did it go down?

17 A. (Menard) I don't have the detail behind why  
18 those costs went down. There's a new -- the  
19 new extension, the extension of the new  
20 contract resulted in lower support costs.

21 Q. Okay. And what is included in the  
22 forecasting revenue credits of 7.2 million?

23 A. (Menard) As I described a little bit earlier,  
24 these were related to the RFP that the



1           Company -- the Eversource companies went out  
2           for an RFP for reassignment of transmission  
3           use rights on the Hydro-Quebec line. That  
4           occurred back in April of 2021 and went into  
5           effect in June of 2021. And this is -- these  
6           credits are a result of that new RFP  
7           construct.

8    Q.    Thank you. And finally on this point, what  
9           constitutes the other costs, quote, unquote,  
10          totaling 1.1 million on the same page?

11   A.    (Menard) This would be related to things like  
12          working capital. Just the change in working  
13          capital component.

14   Q.    Okay. Thank you. And I have Bates page --  
15          let me see. Correct me if I'm misquoting the  
16          right Bates page. Lines 3 to 5, joint  
17          testimony notes that the RNS rate has  
18          increased due to forecasted incremental  
19          investments and transmission infrastructure.  
20          I think we heard something on that.

21                 Could you just sort of sum up and  
22                 elaborate on what those forecasted  
23                 investments will include and where we would  
24                 find a breakdown of those investment figures

1 in the filing.

2 A. (Matthews) Generally speaking, those -- the  
3 investments we're talking about here are  
4 investments in the regional transmission  
5 infrastructure which relate to the  
6 high-voltage lines that are the backbone of  
7 the transmission system and ensure safe and  
8 reliable power flows throughout New England.

9 In terms of the detail to the PTF  
10 investments, there's information that's  
11 communicated through the ISO-New England  
12 planning process. There's nothing in this  
13 filing, I don't believe, that -- with respect  
14 to the totality of investments to be made in  
15 New England, that would highlight, you know,  
16 all of the New England PTO's investments and  
17 the nature of them. There is an exhibit in  
18 Mr. Burnham's testimony that highlights  
19 actual PTF investments, you know, with  
20 respect to both PTF investments and local  
21 service investments that were made in 2020.

22 I might step back and ask Mr. Burnham if  
23 he'd be able to share a thought on location  
24 of detail to PTF investments, you know,

1 through the ISO planning process, if I might.

2 A. (Burnham) Yes, I can elaborate a bit more.

3 There are a few places where you can go  
4 for more information on regional PTF  
5 investments. Generally the process for  
6 getting stakeholder input on those  
7 investments flows through a committee called  
8 the "ISO-New England Planning Advisory  
9 Committee," or the "PAC." It's a public  
10 stakeholder group committee, and it provides  
11 input to the ISO on transmission planning  
12 studies and solutions coming out of those  
13 studies, as well as to the transmission  
14 owners on our asset condition projects. One  
15 of the documents that's prepared by ISO-New  
16 England three times a year is called the  
17 "Regional System Plan" or "RSP" project list,  
18 as well as the asset condition list. Those  
19 documents encompass forecasted future  
20 transmission projects, or I probably should  
21 say --(connectivity issue)

22 [Court Reporter interrupts.]

23 A. (Burnham) -- planned future transmission  
24 projects out over the next couple of years.

1           There's also an informational filing  
2           associated with the annual updates to the RNS  
3           rate that is provided to FERC, as well as  
4           posted on the ISO-New England web site, that  
5           provides a more focused look at the projects  
6           that the transmission owners are expected to  
7           place in service within the period covered by  
8           the rate in question; so, for example, the  
9           2021 rate would be the most recent rate.

10    Q.    Thank you.  That's helpful.

11                   Now I would like to turn to the  
12           testimony of Ms. Ullram.  I will focus on  
13           Bates Page 52 in my version, Lines 13 through  
14           18, where you explain the impact on a  
15           residential customer using 600 kilowatt hours  
16           of electricity per month and the bill  
17           increase anticipated.

18                   Is there a better page reference for the  
19           record for that discussion, or did I hit the  
20           right one?

21    A.    (Ullram) Yeah, so it's red Bates 53.

22    Q.    Okay.  Sounds like I need to add pages.

23    A.    (Ullram) Add one page.

24    Q.    Okay.  So you explained that the residential

1 customer using 600 kilowatt hours of  
2 electricity per month will see a total bill  
3 increase of \$13.41 -- and this is from the  
4 July 20th corrected filing -- per month if  
5 that customer takes the default energy  
6 service from Eversource and assuming no other  
7 changes; is that correct?

8 A. (Ullram) That is correct.

9 Q. And so this increase of \$13.41, and the  
10 average, if you will, customer bill takes  
11 into account only the already-approved change  
12 in default energy service rates approved in  
13 Order 26,491 in Docket 21-077 plus the change  
14 in the TCAM rate that we're looking at today;  
15 is that correct?

16 A. (Ullram) That is correct. And I also  
17 included a summary that summarizes that  
18 information in our exhibits on Bates Page 65,  
19 and that's where that information comes from.

20 Q. Excellent. Thank you.

21 And what other changes could affect that  
22 calculation that you refer to?

23 A. (Ullram) Sure. So we also have a proposed  
24 rate for our Step 2 rate adjustment for

1 August 1st. We have the new RRA line item  
2 that we're proposing for August 1st, and then  
3 there's also the stranded cost recovery  
4 charge proposed for August 1st.

5 Q. Okay. Great. And in the same paragraph you  
6 note that the combined bill impact of the  
7 proposed TCAM rate will include those  
8 additional rates, for a total bill increase  
9 of \$10.42; correct?

10 A. (Ullram) That's correct.

11 Q. Okay. And just for clarity, so that we're  
12 all on the same page, the difference between  
13 the \$13.41 and the \$10.42 figure reflects the  
14 cumulative proposed changes in each of the  
15 rates that you've just listed, added to the  
16 TCAM that we're looking at today; is that  
17 correct?

18 A. (Ullram) Yes, added to the TCAM and the  
19 supply.

20 Q. Okay. That's all I have.

21 And then I'd like to turn back to Mr.  
22 Burnham. You may have covered some of this,  
23 but sometimes it's helpful to look at it from  
24 a different direction.

1           So in your testimony on Bates Page 71, I  
2           have Lines 16 and 17, you refer to a detailed  
3           description of the project. And you pointed  
4           us to Attachment DJB-1 to your testimony,  
5           correct, that are included in LNS rates?

6    A.    (Burnham) Yes. The projects listed in  
7           Attachment DJB-1 are included in both RNS or  
8           LNS, depending on the project.

9    Q.    Okay. And the PTF costs themselves, are they  
10          included in one or the other or both?

11   A.    (Burnham) The PTF costs are included in RNS  
12          rates.

13   Q.    Okay. And is there information on the same  
14          chart that you've provided in your attachment  
15          about costs that would be included in the LNS  
16          rate? Or where would we derive those?

17   A.    (Burnham) The number is not shown directly.  
18          You would need to derive it by subtracting  
19          Column E from Column D. So, rough numbers,  
20          looking at the totals, there would be around  
21          \$134 million included in LNS rates.

22   Q.    Thank you. That's very helpful.

23                   MS. FABRIZIO: That concludes my  
24                   questioning, Madam Chair.

1 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Thank  
2 you. Ms. Fabrizio, would you just mind  
3 introducing Mr. Eckberg for the record, in  
4 case we have questions for him.

5 MS. FABRIZIO: Sure.

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. FABRIZIO:

8 Q. Mr. Eckberg, could you please state your full  
9 name for the record. You are on mute still.  
10 Mr. Eckberg, can you hear me?

11 A. (Eckberg) I'm sorry. I'm having trouble  
12 hearing you a little bit. Yes, if you're  
13 speaking to me.

14 Q. Okay. Could you please state your full name  
15 for the record, please.

16 A. (Eckberg) Certainly. My name is Steven  
17 Eckberg.

18 Q. And by whom are you employed?

19 A. (Eckberg) I'm employed as a utility analyst  
20 with the Regulatory Support Division of the  
21 Department of Energy.

22 Q. Thank you. And did you review the petition  
23 filing we're discussing in today's  
24 proceeding?



1 A. (Eckberg) Yes, I did. I reviewed the  
2 original filing, as well as the updated  
3 filing which is before us today as Exhibit 1,  
4 and participated in a technical session with  
5 the Company to discuss many of the details  
6 and aspects that we've talked about generally  
7 today, and discussed a lot of those items  
8 with you in preparation for the hearing as  
9 well today.

10 Q. And have you previously testified before the  
11 Commission?

12 A. (Eckberg) Yes, I have.

13 Q. Okay. Thank you.

14 MS. FABRIZIO: Mr. Eckberg, is  
15 available for questions.

16 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you very  
17 much.

18 Commissioner Goldner.

19 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Thank you.

20 INTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:

21 BY COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:

22 Q. I'd just like to start with a question for  
23 Mr. Matthews on the table that you went over.  
24 I'm just trying to understand it a little bit

1 better. I completely understand, I think,  
2 and appreciate the load ratio share that you  
3 pointed out and the reasons for that. No  
4 problem.

5 The expenses go down slightly, in terms  
6 of dollars, and then the dollars per megawatt  
7 hour actually go up. And I'm trying to  
8 understand what the denominator is and where  
9 those megawatt hours are located and why one  
10 line went one direction and the other line  
11 went in another direction.

12 A. (Matthews) Sure. That phenomena that you've  
13 noticed is due to the loads that are used in  
14 developing that per-megawatt-hour rate. The  
15 \$2,059,000 shown in the January '22 to  
16 July '22 column represent an average  
17 billed -- forecasted billed expense for that  
18 time period under the new rate structure.  
19 And I think it's just more a product of what  
20 the projected loads are expected to be for  
21 that January through July time period, in  
22 that you have some relatively lower load  
23 months, such as March, April, May, and a  
24 little bit into June, that are resulting in

1 lower loads, when divided into the total  
2 costs, come up with a higher rate. If you  
3 were to extrapolate this out through the  
4 remainder of 2022 and incorporate the  
5 benefit, I guess you would say, of high --  
6 you know, of the peak load months of July,  
7 August, September, you would likely see that  
8 per-megawatt-hour rate come down.

9 Q. Yeah, and I appreciate that. And the reason  
10 I was confused is if you go over to the next  
11 set of data, the DE-085 [DE 20-085], the  
12 expenses are basically flat there, and the  
13 dollar-per-megawatt hour is basically flat.  
14 So it means in actuality, megawatt hours were  
15 the same in those two time periods in  
16 reality, but then in forecast I think you're  
17 forecasting that you have a load change  
18 relative to the first half relative to the  
19 second half. Is that fair?

20 A. (Matthews) Yes. Yup. And mostly it's a  
21 time-of-year impact on that.

22 Q. Yeah, but you see what I'm saying, though?  
23 If you look at the -- just to recap here real  
24 quick, and not to beat a horse to death, but

1           on the expenses in 2020, the actuals in  
2           August 2020 to December 2020, if you look at  
3           that set of data and then the one next to it,  
4           January to July, it has the same expenses  
5           almost exactly, \$2,045,00, et cetera. And  
6           then below that, the dollars per megawatt  
7           hours is identical, 3.85, which means that  
8           the load was the same.

9    A.    (Matthews) Right.

10   Q.    And so I'm saying --

11   A.    (Matthews) Right.

12   Q.    Yeah. So, yeah, okay.

13   A.    (Matthews) And just one clarification. I  
14           believe under the DE 20-085, those were the  
15           projections for that time period. So it's  
16           not an actual forecast. It's prior  
17           projection versus current projection.

18   Q.    I see.

19   A.    (Matthews) But yes, I understand what you're  
20           saying.

21   Q.    Okay. So I can recap now, then, I think. So  
22           the old projection was to keep it flat, and  
23           now you've got a bit of a change, first half  
24           to second half.

1 A. (Matthews) Yeah.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. (Matthews) Right. And to give you just a  
4 little bit of flavor on why we've kind of  
5 made that change is under the new rate  
6 construct coming from the settlement -- and  
7 these rates will be effective 1/1/22 -- we're  
8 going to a unit rate times load as opposed to  
9 the old load ratio share approach. So we  
10 were able to apply the unit rate for the year  
11 that was calculated in the settled formula  
12 rate times the specific loads for those  
13 months. So that's why we've sort of shifted  
14 that methodology to reflect the mechanics of  
15 the new rate structure.

16 Q. Okay. Yes. And in this morning's  
17 discussion, we had a discussion on the  
18 conservative nature of some of the  
19 forecasting. So we'll see how this turns  
20 out. I guess we'll know soon enough, won't  
21 we. But I appreciate the explanation. Thank  
22 you. We'll true it up later, I'm sure, if it  
23 is incorrect.

24 A. (Matthews) Exactly. Thank you.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Okay. So now a little bit more -- I  
3 have a question, perhaps for Ms. Menard.

4 Is there a table in the presentation  
5 here that shows the historical TCAM rates?  
6 I'm thinking about with dollars and  
7 percentages going back a few years. I'm just  
8 trying to baseline myself in terms of where  
9 we are now and where we've been in the past.

10 A. (Menard) No, we do not have an historical  
11 table in this rate filing.

12 Q. How many years would this go back? I mean, I  
13 don't want to go back to 1920. But would it  
14 go back five or ten years naturally?

15 A. (Menard) Yeah, I believe it goes back to  
16 around the 2006 time frame. And I believe we  
17 have a table. I'm going to look at  
18 Ms. Ullram for a nod. But I believe we have  
19 a table with the historical rates.

20 A. (Ullram) We do have one available. The only  
21 information in this filing that has any  
22 resemblance of historical is we go back to  
23 last August. So we have the August -- but  
24 it's just August to August comparison. So if

1           you wanted to go back further than that, we  
2           do have tables available, just not in this  
3           filing.

4    Q.    Thank you.  Yeah, I would like to make that  
5           request.  And the reason for that is that  
6           we're, as a Commission, to look at  
7           reasonableness.  And the best way to look at  
8           reasonableness is to look at the history and  
9           see if there's any big changes.  So I would  
10          like to request that data.

11   A.   (Menard) But I believe the Regulatory Support  
12          Division in the DOE keeps historical rates as  
13          well because we frequently get asked  
14          questions.

15   Q.    Yeah, no problem.  I just would like to see  
16          it from a source so that --

17                    COMMISSIONER GOLDNER:  Chair, do  
18                    you have a preference on how we secure that  
19                    information?

20                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:  No.  I think to  
21                    the extent it's the same data, it can come  
22                    from either source -- (connectivity issue)

23                    [Court Reporter interrupts.]

24                    CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:  I said to the

1 extent it's the same data, it can come from  
2 either source and be sufficient. I don't  
3 know if it's easier for one or the other to  
4 provide it, but I guess I'll look to you  
5 both --

6 A. (Ullram) We have the data available, so we  
7 can provide it. Just for clarification, how  
8 far back would you like to go?

9 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: I think five  
10 years is sufficient. Thank you.

11 (Exhibit 2 reserved for record request as  
12 described.)

13 A. (Menard) I looked, and it was established in  
14 2007. That was the first TCAM rate.

15 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Okay. Yeah,  
16 we don't need to go back that far. Thank  
17 you, though.

18 I'm sorry. A lot of this discussion  
19 today is around, you know, peak load. So I  
20 just want to make sure I understand what  
21 we're talking about. When we talk about  
22 monthly peak loads, is it an instantaneous  
23 load? Is it some kind of average? What is  
24 it that we're talking about?



1 A. (Burnham) I guess I can start. I'll look for  
2 maybe Mr. Matthews to help out if needed.

3 It's a monthly peak. It's an hourly  
4 load. So it's an hourly average load. It's  
5 calculated -- those hourly loads are  
6 calculated or actually measured by the  
7 transmission owners, reported up to ISO-New  
8 England, and then -- at least for the RNS  
9 costs -- those RNS costs are allocated back  
10 to the transmission customers based on the  
11 reported monthly peak loads.

12 Q. So if we -- just to make sure I understand.  
13 So if the highest load was on, you know,  
14 June 22nd, then the month of June, it would  
15 be reported as June 22nd and the load for  
16 that date? Is that how it's reported?

17 A. (Burnham) Yes. And potentially, depending on  
18 where you get it from, also the hour in which  
19 the peak occurred.

20 Q. Okay. And I imagine you're getting this  
21 information from different sources. And  
22 you've got June 22nd from one and June 21st  
23 from another, and one says 11:00 a.m. and one  
24 says 2:00 p.m. Is it -- I'm just trying to

1 figure out how all that is summarized.

2 A. (Burnham) So there are -- within New England,  
3 generally the transmission owners are  
4 assigned to be what's actually called the  
5 "meter reader" for their service areas. So  
6 we have a group that's responsible for  
7 obtaining all of the metered hourly data from  
8 our revenue quality meters. I believe it's  
9 actually obtained for every hour of every  
10 day. It's also used for energy market  
11 settlement, which happens on an hourly basis  
12 anyway. So from that data, it's fairly easy  
13 to identify. You know, we have the total for  
14 every hour of every day. It's relatively  
15 easy to look at the month and identify the  
16 peak hour.

17 Q. So I guess what I'm just trying to  
18 understand, because I'm a new commissioner,  
19 is what is the location at which you're  
20 gathering the data? Is it at a power  
21 generation source? Is it at a residential  
22 house? Is it on a transmission line? Where  
23 is the data taken from?

24 A. (Burnham) The revenue quality metering that's

1           used for those calculations is typically  
2           located on generators, generally large  
3           generators, and our tie lines with our  
4           neighboring utilities. So basically, you  
5           know, because the power's always in balance,  
6           once you know how much was generated internal  
7           to our service area and how much we either  
8           imported or exported from our neighbors, we  
9           can calculate what the load was within that  
10          particular hour within our service area.

11        Q.    Okay. Okay. I won't go to the DC lines  
12           because that would be different. So I'll  
13           leave that alone. We won't worry about that.  
14           Thank you. No, that's very helpful.

15                        So, and I think Eversource worked to  
16           answer this question, but I'm not sure this  
17           exact question was answered, and that is --  
18           and if it was, if you could just please  
19           repeat the answer.

20                        How does New Hampshire compare to other  
21           states that Eversource services on the TCAM  
22           rates over the last four or five years? And  
23           maybe we could just bolt that into the record  
24           request and it would be easier. But all that

1 matters I think -- I shouldn't say all that  
2 matters. The primary item that matters is  
3 New Hampshire's relative performance to other  
4 states in terms of whether the rate  
5 percentage goes up and down. So I'm just  
6 trying to sort out is New Hampshire doing  
7 well relative to neighboring states or poorly  
8 relative to neighboring states.

9 A. (Ullram) I don't have the rates on the tip of  
10 my fingers right now for Massachusetts and  
11 Connecticut. But I can certainly add it to  
12 that record request and just put all of the  
13 rates side by side for, you know, each of the  
14 operating companies under Eversource together  
15 in a table.

16 Q. Thank you. Perfect. Thank you.

17 I'll ask a high-level question here just  
18 again to try and paint a picture. When I  
19 look at the EIA data, it shows states not in  
20 New England, but primarily in the south and  
21 in the west that have less than half the  
22 total cost of electricity versus New  
23 Hampshire and the other New England states.

24 Can you give me some idea, are the

1 transmission costs the same in those other  
2 low-cost states? Are they doing something  
3 differently? I'm just trying to understand  
4 the transmission costs that we're seeing here  
5 and how that would compare across the United  
6 States.

7 A. (Burnham) On the transmission cost question,  
8 honestly, it's difficult to do an  
9 apples-to-apples comparison across regions on  
10 transmission rates specifically. In other  
11 parts of the country, for example, there may  
12 be a bundled rate applied for transmission  
13 and distribution together. In other cases,  
14 the transmission charges are actually paid by  
15 energy suppliers and don't appear as an  
16 individual line item on a retail bill.  
17 They're actually rolled into the generation  
18 supply or the energy supply charge. So I'm  
19 afraid I don't necessarily have a good  
20 comparison to the retail transmission rate.  
21 Just the nature of restructuring or lack of  
22 restructuring in different states has made  
23 things very, very different.

24 Q. Yeah, fair. Fair. The reason I ask this is

1           that, according to EIA, which is the U.S.  
2           Government's data, there are states that  
3           literally have half the electricity charges  
4           in total --

5                         [Court Reporter interrupts.]

6    Q.    So just looking at the EIA data, given --  
7           well, I guess what I'm saying is that, given  
8           that we're twice as much as other parts of  
9           the country in total, and understanding that  
10          transmission discussion here today is only a  
11          part of that, I'm just trying to grasp how  
12          other states could have half the cost of  
13          electricity than New Hampshire. That's what  
14          I'm trying to get to.

15   A.    (Burnham) I can try to elaborate a little on  
16          the top line number, which is that is the  
17          thing that is kind of available for an  
18          apples-to-apples comparison through that EIA  
19          data.

20                 One of the things that has been a driver  
21          of New England retail electricity costs for a  
22          long time has been just kind of the  
23          fundamental geography, that we are located  
24          some distance from the fuel sources for our

1 generation. Many years ago, that would have  
2 meant bringing in coal by rail car or oil by  
3 pipeline or barge from somewhere in the  
4 middle of the country, at least, if not  
5 further west. More recently, that means  
6 bringing in natural gas from either  
7 Pennsylvania or the south, southwest, via gas  
8 pipeline. But ultimately, we're the ones at  
9 the end of the pipe. And as a result of  
10 that, we see capacity constraints that tend  
11 to drive up New England energy prices  
12 relative to the rest of the country.

13 We also have a capacity market which has  
14 proven to be fairly volatile in terms of  
15 pricing over the past few years. And we're  
16 coming down now. We're coming off a period  
17 of very high capacity prices that were  
18 associated with the retirements of some  
19 generation a couple of years ago.

20 Q. Thank you. That makes sense.

21 I'm just looking at a recent electric  
22 bill. And, you know, it's kind of -- let's  
23 call it 35 percent generation -- this is for  
24 the summer -- 65 percent transmission and

1 distribution here in New Hampshire. And so I  
2 kind of -- so when you just look at the big  
3 picture, you say, well, another state has  
4 half of the total electric charges.

5 Understanding that their generation charges  
6 might be a lot less, it still means our  
7 transmission and distribution costs are quite  
8 a bit higher. So I'm just trying to grapple  
9 with that piece of information.

10 A. (Burnham) Maybe one other thing to point to  
11 is we are ultimately a higher kind of cost of  
12 business region in general, and that does end  
13 up being reflected in rates across the board.

14 Q. And I'm sorry. Final question for you.

15 When you say "higher cost of business,"  
16 can you attribute that to two or three  
17 different -- maybe if you could state the top  
18 two or three reasons for that.

19 A. (Burnham) I don't think I'm in a position to  
20 necessarily rank individual reasons. I would  
21 say commonly cited reasons would be labor  
22 costs, property costs, taxes, property taxes,  
23 things like that.

24 Q. Okay.



1 A. (Burnham) But I could not put a number on,  
2 you know, base impact versus small impacts.

3 Q. No worries. The top three, that's what I was  
4 looking for. Thank you. That's very  
5 helpful.

6 Okay. Just a few more questions.  
7 Active demand was talked about a little bit  
8 before, and I wonder if somebody could just  
9 maybe add a little bit of color to that. I  
10 was reading about it in the filing. There's  
11 curtailment service providers, there's the  
12 active demand for the pilot looks like that's  
13 going on. So I'm just trying to understand  
14 how the economics of this work.

15 Are people turning off their power in  
16 the middle of the day in the summer, and how  
17 are we convincing them to do that, this kind  
18 of thing? I'm just not sure I grasp what the  
19 effort actually is.

20 A. (Menard) At a high level, I can kind of give  
21 an overview, but I'm certainly not the expert  
22 on the program. But at a high level, it's --  
23 you know, there are times where peak demands  
24 are projected to be extremely high, and there

1 is a call for people with, you know, certain  
2 devices that are part of this program to  
3 curtail their load. And so that's why it's  
4 kind of an active demand program. When the  
5 call is made, the customers in this program  
6 can actively curtail their load.

7 Q. Do you have any idea what they're actually  
8 doing? I'm just wondering about the  
9 physical -- are they turning off lights? Are  
10 they shutting factories down? What's  
11 actually happening to curtail the load?

12 A. (Menard) Yeah, it could be turning off  
13 lighting. It could be reducing HVAC  
14 equipment. You know, there could be  
15 processes that a manufacturer could reduce or  
16 shift. So there's a lot of these devices or,  
17 you know, things out there.

18 For example, I'll just take our office  
19 building. When there is a call, when there's  
20 a high-demand day -- and there's all these  
21 different levels at ISO-New England. You  
22 know, there's certain levels, you know, a  
23 bank of lights will turn off and the air  
24 conditioners will rise so it gets a little

1 bit warmer in the office. So there's things  
2 that you can do from, you know, a control  
3 perspective to change the way you building or  
4 home uses energy. The same with the  
5 residential side. There's thermostats. You  
6 can change thermostat settings so --

7 Q. And how does the consumer -- oh, I'm sorry.

8 How does the consumer benefit? Is there  
9 some sort of rebate that goes out if they  
10 turn down their power during peak times? How  
11 do they benefit from their reaction to the  
12 call?

13 A. (Menard) I believe there's some sort of a  
14 credit or payment-type arrangement that a  
15 customer gets, some sort of benefit for being  
16 enrolled in this. I don't have the details  
17 at my hand, but there is some sort of  
18 arrangement for a reduced rate.

19 Q. So it sounds like it's more of a fixed-cost  
20 deal. You sign up for the program, you know,  
21 you get a benefit of \$100 a month or  
22 something, as opposed to we took, you know,  
23 four megawatts off the system at noon which  
24 matched the peak load. It's not like a

1 real-time processing thing.

2 A. (Menard) I don't believe it's real-time  
3 processing. Indirectly, that's exactly  
4 what's happening. So as our peak loads are  
5 getting lowered, you know, as we talked  
6 about, those flow through rate calculations  
7 later. So there's a response eventually, but  
8 it's not that immediate, oh, we reduced peak  
9 loads by this much and it was this many  
10 dollars and therefore that savings goes back  
11 to all those that helped to reduce peak.

12 Q. Yup, yup. I guess when utilities get the  
13 real-time metering in the back office, then  
14 this will all become much simpler. We'll  
15 wait for that day in the future.

16 Just a couple more questions, maybe even  
17 one more. This one might require the  
18 engineering department. So if nobody knows  
19 the answer, that's fine.

20 My question is does Eversource have a  
21 comprehensive line-loss reduction program,  
22 meaning shorter loops, better conductors,  
23 better transformers? Is there a  
24 comprehensive program to reduce line losses?

1           Of course you have -- [connectivity issue] --  
2           losses in the line -- [connectivity issue]  
3           it's better conductors. But one of the  
4           losses I know are switching losses in  
5           transformers and this kind of thing. And  
6           upgraded equipment can have an impact, a  
7           large impact on the line losses.

8                         Does Eversource look at that  
9           holistically and have a program on that?

10    A.    (Burnham) Our current approach to reducing  
11           line losses is more through opportunities  
12           that are created through projects that we're  
13           doing for other reasons. For example,  
14           typically when we are rebuilding a line,  
15           which means replacing all the structures and  
16           replacing the conductor, we will select the  
17           largest, meaning largest diameter conductor  
18           that can be supported by the tower design  
19           we're using. That adds essentially no  
20           incremental cost to doing that. Most of the  
21           cost is just associated with the line rebuild  
22           itself. But using a larger conductor will  
23           reduce the line losses. Similarly, we  
24           have -- when we replace transformers, we will

1 typically use standard-size transformers that  
2 have losses as part of the consideration.

3 Q. Okay. Very good. All right.

4 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: That is all  
5 I have, Chairwoman Martin. Thank you.

6 INTERROGATORIES BY CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN:

7 Q. Okay. Mr. Eckberg, if you wouldn't mind, I  
8 wanted to ask you about some of the  
9 attachments to Ms. Ullram's testimony with  
10 regard to --

11 A. (Eckberg) Yes.

12 Q. I believe they start on black Page 53.

13 A. (Eckberg) You said black Bates Page 53?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. (Eckberg) Okay. I'm there.

16 Q. Okay. So there are a number of calculations  
17 related to the TCAM, and I just wanted to ask  
18 whether you had reviewed the calculations in  
19 the attachments.

20 A. (Eckberg) Yes, I have reviewed the  
21 calculations here and on these schedules of  
22 Ms. Ullram. These schedules were provided to  
23 us in a live Excel spreadsheet format to help  
24 us with that review. And I have reviewed

1           those calculations and have no issues with  
2           those.

3    Q.    Okay. Thank you. And did you review the  
4           application of the rate to the different  
5           classes? Those are the following documents.

6    A.    (Eckberg) Yes. Well, the calculations that  
7           Ms. Ullram includes here does certainly --  
8           yes, there's calculations for the different  
9           rate classes, yes. And again, I feel  
10          comfortable with all those. I have reviewed  
11          those, yes.

12   Q.    Okay. Thank you. Quick question about black  
13          Bates 60, the reference to the Settlement  
14          Agreement in 06-028 and the billing  
15          determinants. Can you just give us a  
16          high-level description of how those apply  
17          here?

18   A.    (Ullram) That is a great catch because it  
19          should not have that settlement. Let me back  
20          up.

21                 So the billing determinants in Column A  
22                 on black Bates 60, those are billing  
23                 determinants -- (connectivity issue)

24                         [Court Reporter interrupts.]

1 A. (Ullram) Those are the billing determinants  
2 from our rate case. And so those were used  
3 to calculate the revenue from our base  
4 component that's included in the -- the  
5 reference in the heading to DE 06-028, the  
6 settlement agreement there. That reference  
7 is just indicating that the methodology that  
8 we used to allocate -- to calculate the rates  
9 for Rate B is still based on that settlement  
10 agreement. When we went in for our rate case  
11 in DE 19-057, we did not change our  
12 methodology for calculating Rate B in the  
13 TCAM.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you. And I see Mr. Eckberg  
15 nodding his head in agreement.

16 A. (Eckberg) Yes, that's correct. As Ms. Ullram  
17 points out, black Bates 60, the column  
18 headings do refer specifically to the 2018  
19 billing demand, which is one of the billing  
20 determinants that references. So I agree  
21 that the methodology for calculating the  
22 Rate B transmission costs are the things that  
23 are -- that's the part that the reference to  
24 06-028 applies to. It's the methodology of



1 calculation that the Company used in the new,  
2 most recent billing determinants. So I was  
3 nodding in agreement because that's correct.

4 Q. Okay. Thank you for that explanation.

5 One other question. Ms. Menard  
6 testified about the new contract that's in  
7 place and referenced discussions to extend  
8 the contract. And I think it's the contract  
9 with Hydro-Quebec. Could you just give me a  
10 little bit more related to that history and  
11 those discussions? Ms. Menard or Mr. Eckberg  
12 is fine.

13 A. (Menard) I think you're referring to I  
14 mentioned that there was some discussions  
15 with, back then, Staff, PUC Staff. Last  
16 August, I think, August of 2020, we did a  
17 briefing or an update. The Energy Supply  
18 Group for Eversource briefed the Electric  
19 Division Staff on the discussions that were  
20 ongoing and the filing that was going to be  
21 made at FERC related to this new contract.  
22 Subsequently, there was a letter filed on  
23 January 11, 2021. It was filed with the  
24 Commission, and it was a notice of the

1 extension of the Hydro-Quebec transmission  
2 facility agreement. And it outlines the  
3 extension of the agreement and provides a  
4 summary of that extension. So those were the  
5 discussions that I was referring to. And Mr.  
6 Eckberg can expand further.

7 A. (Eckberg) I don't think I have any  
8 significant expansion to offer. I think that  
9 Ms. Menard has accurately represented the  
10 discussions that took place.

11 Q. Okay. Thank you. I wanted to make sure. I  
12 had note of discussions, and I did not know  
13 exactly what you were referring to. So thank  
14 you for clarifying.

15 Okay. I don't think I have any other  
16 questions that haven't been answered. Just  
17 let me check. No, I do not.

18 So I will go back to Ms. Chiavara to see  
19 if you have any redirect.

20 MS. CHIAVARA: I couldn't unmute.  
21 I have no redirect. Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. You're  
23 welcome. And just to be safe. Do you have  
24 any thoughts for Mr. Eckberg, based on our

1 questions?

2 MS. CHIAVARA: I do not. Thank  
3 you.

4 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.  
5 Thank you.

6 And Ms. Fabrizio, any redirect?

7 MS. FABRIZIO: I do not have any  
8 redirect. Thank you.

9 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: All right.  
10 Thank you. Then I think that we are all done  
11 with the witnesses. Thank you very much, all  
12 of you.

13 Anything else before we hear from  
14 the parties for closings?

15 [No verbal response]

16 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Seeing nothing,  
17 we'll strike I.D. on Exhibit 1 and admit that  
18 as a full exhibit, and hold the record open  
19 for Exhibit 2 related to the historical TCAM  
20 rates, as was requested by Commissioner  
21 Goldner.

22 Is that something you also could  
23 have available before next Wednesday, on or  
24 before next Wednesday?

1                   WITNESS ULLRAM: Yes, it won't be  
2                   difficult getting that information.

3                   COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Chair, if I  
4                   may, it was the TCAM rates for New Hampshire  
5                   and then the other regions where Eversource  
6                   operates. So I think there was Connecticut  
7                   and Massachusetts dollars and percentages,  
8                   just to be on the same page.

9                   CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you. And  
10                  that was for the last five years?

11                  COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Correct.

12                  CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay.

13                  WITNESS MENARD: Just to clarify,  
14                  you want the rate itself plus the percentage  
15                  change from year to year?

16                  COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Precisely.  
17                  Thank you.

18                  WITNESS MENARD: Yes. Okay.

19                  WITNESS ULLRAM: Sorry. One more  
20                  clarification on that. I apologize.

21                  CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Go ahead.

22                  WITNESS ULLRAM: So just to further  
23                  clarify, when we were talking -- when we were  
24                  discussing the rates before in my specific

1 exhibits, those rates are for a Rate R  
2 residential customer. And so I would think  
3 that a better comparison might be total  
4 overall average rate for each state, so that  
5 we're not getting into how each state  
6 allocates to specific classes.

7 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Yes. I'm  
8 sorry. I should have been more specific.  
9 I'm just looking for the overall TCAM rate,  
10 just the big rate, yeah, just to make it  
11 simple. Yeah. Absolutely.

12 WITNESS ULLRAM: Okay. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER GOLDNER: Thank you.

14 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Okay. Why  
15 don't we hear from Ms. Fabrizio first in  
16 closing.

17 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you, Madam  
18 Chair. The Department has reviewed the  
19 Company's petition filing in detail in this  
20 docket and supports approval of the proposed  
21 2021 transmission cost adjustment to customer  
22 rates as revised and corrected on July 20th  
23 and presented today. We also reviewed the  
24 lead-lag study included in the Company's

1 filing within Attachment ELM-2 and  
2 discussed -- this was also discussed in the  
3 joint testimony of Ms. Menard and Mr.  
4 Matthews. And the Department has determined  
5 that the lead-lag study has been prepared in  
6 a manner consistent with past practice.

7 And we would like to take this  
8 opportunity to thank the Company team for  
9 their cooperative efforts in flushing out the  
10 details of their petition for our better  
11 understanding. Thank you.

12 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you, Ms.  
13 Fabrizio.

14 Ms. Chiavara.

15 MS. CHIAVARA: Thank you. I would  
16 also like to start with thanks -- sorry. I'm  
17 getting a bit of an echo. I wanted to start  
18 out by thanking DOE Staff for a thorough and  
19 very helpful review and discussion of the  
20 Company's filings and for their  
21 recommendation that the proposed rate be  
22 adopted.

23 I wanted to provide a couple of  
24 things just for reference on items that were

1 raised.

2 The history and context of the TCAM  
3 rate, that rate was created by Order No.  
4 24,750, and that's Docket No. DE 06-028. And  
5 that supplies a good foundation on how the  
6 TCAM came about.

7 And as to the discussion about  
8 demand response programs, the current  
9 iteration and the currently proposed future  
10 iteration of those programs can be found in  
11 the proposed three-year energy-efficiency  
12 plan, and that was filed in Docket No.  
13 DE 20-092. So those both provide additional  
14 information to those two items.

15 In closing, the Company supports  
16 the proposed TCAM rate and the methods with  
17 which it was calculated as both accurate and  
18 consistent with the relevant authorities that  
19 govern such calculations. These are FERC  
20 jurisdictional costs that are passed to the  
21 Company for recovery through retail rates as  
22 what are called "pass-through costs." We  
23 recommend that the Commission approve the  
24 rate as it has been proposed in the Company's

1 filing, and it will result in just and  
2 reasonable rates.

3 Again, as with the SCRC rate that  
4 was just proposed this morning, we have a  
5 reconciling rate that can be approved as  
6 proposed, while creating, if warranted, an  
7 opportunity for further exploration of open  
8 issues in the time between the approval of  
9 this proposed rate and the consideration of  
10 the rate proposal in the next TCAM  
11 proceeding. We therefore ask that the  
12 Commission not delay in approving the  
13 proposed TCAM rate today, giving sufficient  
14 time for the Company to implement it by  
15 August 1st. Thank you.

16 CHAIRWOMAN MARTIN: Thank you, Ms.  
17 Chiavara.

18 Thank you, everyone. We will take  
19 this matter under advisement. The hearing is  
20 adjourned. Have a good rest of the day  
21 (Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.)  
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR  
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	<b>9:18;13:7;24:6; 34:19;44:16</b>	<b>agree (1)</b> 64:20	<b>17:13;20:6;37:12; 72:5</b>	<b>back (23)</b> 8:13;12:20;13:3,7, 18;33:4;34:22;38:21; 46:7,12,13,14,15,22; 47:1;48:8,16;49:9; 60:10,13;63:19; 65:15;66:18
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<b>\$100 (1)</b> 59:21	<b>actuals (4)</b> 9:21,22;32:10;44:1	<b>air (1)</b> 58:23	<b>April (2)</b> 33:4;42:23	<b>balance (1)</b> 51:5
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